

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicants: K.S. Kim et al.

Attorney Docket No.: DESS114787

Application No.: 09/619,424

Group Art Unit: 3724

Filed: July 19, 2000

Examiner: C.F. Dexter

Title: THREE AXIS PORTIONING METHOD

RESPONSE TO ELECTION/RESTRICTION REQUIREMENT

Seattle, Washington 98101

November 27, 2001

TO THE COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS:

This paper is filed in response to the Office Action mailed on October 2, 2001. A one-month extension is requested.

Presently, Claims 1-32 are pending in the application. Claims 1-32 are subject to restriction and/or election requirement. A restriction to one of 7 separate inventions identified by the Examiner was required.

Applicants respectfully submit the requirement is much too restrictive, as certain of the groups of claims, namely, Groups 1-4, or Groups 5-7, being examined together would pose no undue burdens on the Examiner.

As required by C.F.R. § 1.143, applicants elect without traverse the claims of Group 5, Claims 15-22 and 32. Further, as required by the Examiner, applicants elect the species of Figure 12. Claims 15-24 and 32 read on the elected species. Applicants concur with the

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Examiner that upon allowance of Claim 15, rejoinder of Groups 5 and 6 will be proper. Applicants also concur that rejoinder of Groups 1-4 will be proper upon allowance of Claim 1.

Respectfully submitted,

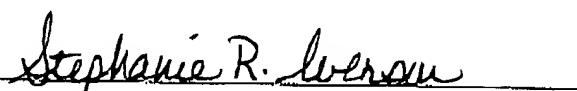
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I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the U.S. Postal Service in a sealed envelope as first class mail with postage thereon fully prepaid and addressed to the Commissioner for Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231, on the below date.

Date: November 27, 2001



Stephanie R. Lerner

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